Changes to USCG Fire Extinguisher Requirements

Effective April 20, 2022, the USCG has moved the requirements regarding fire extinguishers on recreational vessels from title 46 to title 33. This rule does not alter standards for commercial vessels including vessels carrying passengers for hire, or have any effect on recreational vessels that do not use propulsion machinery. This rule moves fire extinguishing equipment rules for recreational vessels from subpart 25.30 (Fire Extinguishing Equipment) of subchapter C (Uninspected Vessels) of title 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to part 175 of subchapter S (Boating Safety) of title 33, where other recreational vessel rules already exist. Our state statute regarding fire extinguishers is still in compliance with federal requirements, but the approvals for fire extinguishers from the USCG have changed with this rule change. With the change, everyone needs to know that fire extinguishers older than 12 years old are considered expired and non-serviceable. Attached is a sheet of FAQs and a breakdown of the Federal requirements.